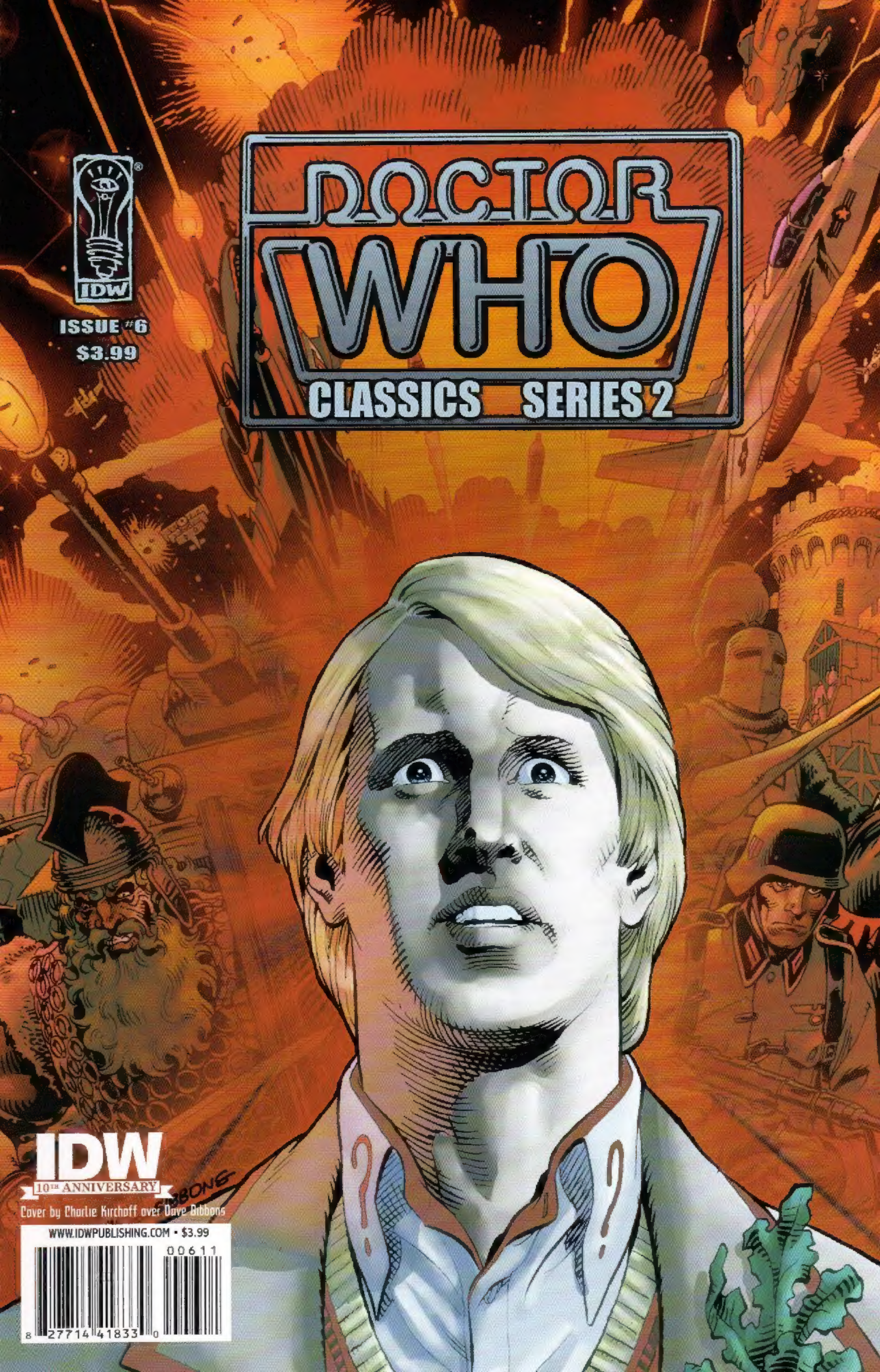
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Writer:
Steve Parkhouse

Art:
Dave Gibbons

Editor:
Alan McKenzie

New Credits:

Colors:
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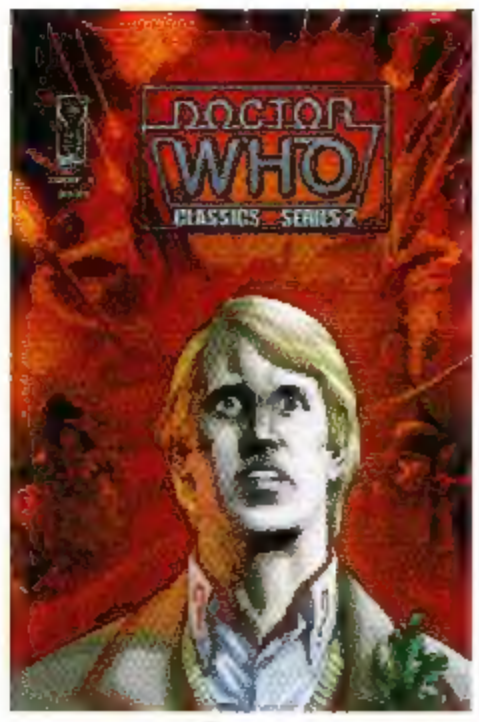
Editor:
Denton J. Tipton

Designer:
Amauri Osorio

cover checklist:



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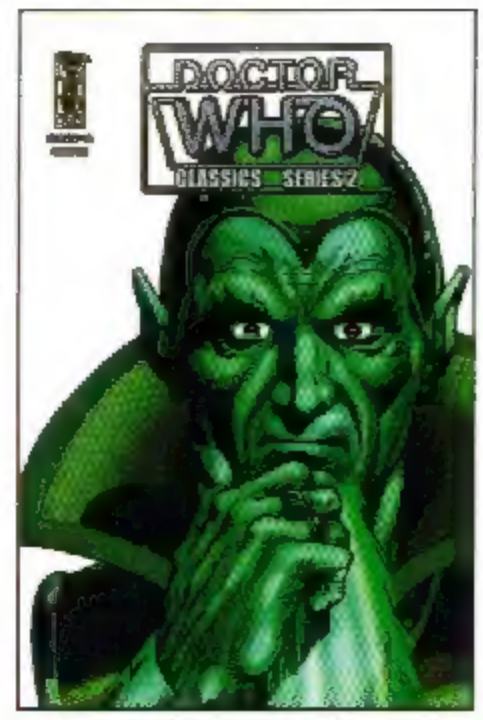

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THE TIDES OF TIME

PART FOUR

THE DEMON **MELANICUS** HAS TAKEN OVER THE **EVENT SYNTHESISER**, A VAST ORGANIC MACHINE THAT CONTROLS THE FLOW OF EVENTS IN TIME ... HE NOW HAS THE POWER TO PROJECT ILLUSIONS ON A **COSMIC SCALE**!

THE TIME LORDS OF GALLIFREY HAVE SENT **THE DOCTOR** TO RECOVER IT ... AND AFTER A HAIR-RAISING RIDE ON A HELLISH **ROLLER-COASTER**, THE DOCTOR NOW CONFRONTS THE IMAGE OF **MELANICUS HIMSELF**!

ONLY ONE THOUGHT SPRINGS TO MIND AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME ... IS THIS **REAL**, OR MERELY ANOTHER **ILLUSION**?

ON THE OTHER HAND ... THE SPECTRAL GUNMAN, THE SHADOW-MAN WHO HAS BEEN HARD ON THE DOCTOR'S HEELS, IS **NOT** THINKING AT ALL!

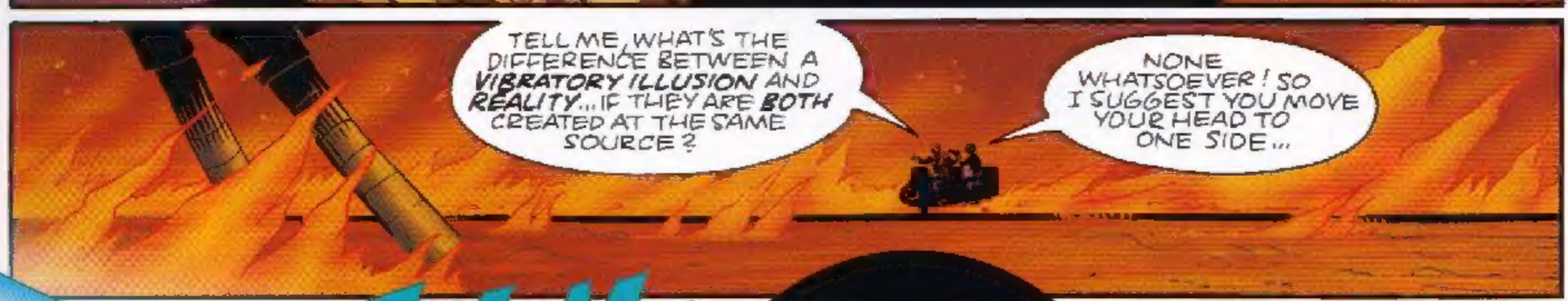
FOR, BEING A SECONDARY AGENT OF THE TIME-LORDS IN THE MATRIX DATA-BANK ... HIS THOUGHTS MUST TAKE THEIR CUE FROM THEIRS ...

AND OF ALL THE CHARACTERS WOVEN INTO THIS RICH TAPESTRY OF SYNTHETIC EVENTS ... ONLY **RASSILON** KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT!

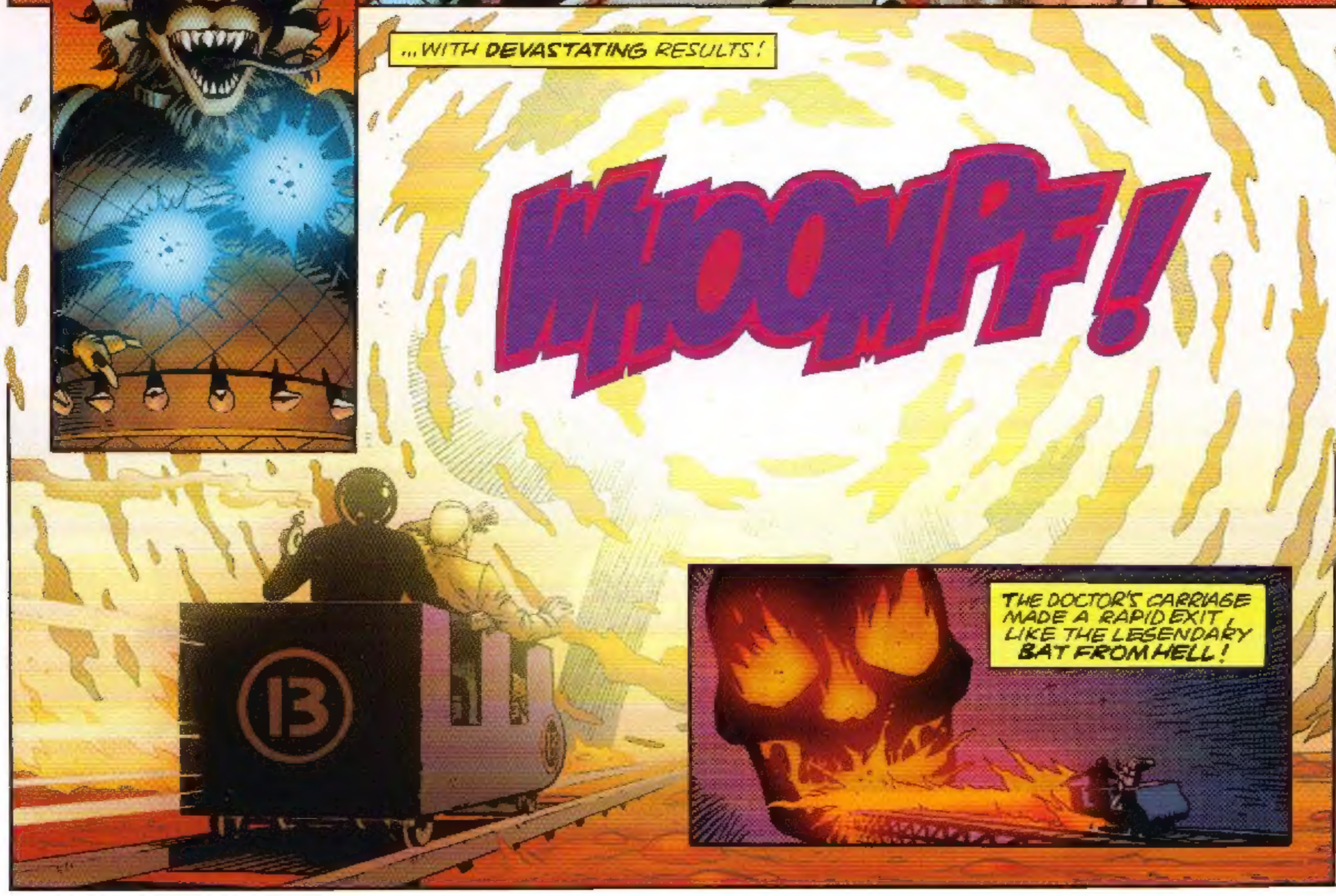
THE SECONDARY AGENT HAS **INSUFFICIENT POWER** TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT CRISIS ...

I SUGGEST WE **INCREASE** HIS ENERGIES AT **MANIFEST LEVEL** ...

CONSEQUENTLY...
DO NOT WORRY UNDULY, DOCTOR... WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU IS A VIBRATORY ILLUSION CREATED BY THE EVENT SYNTHESISER!

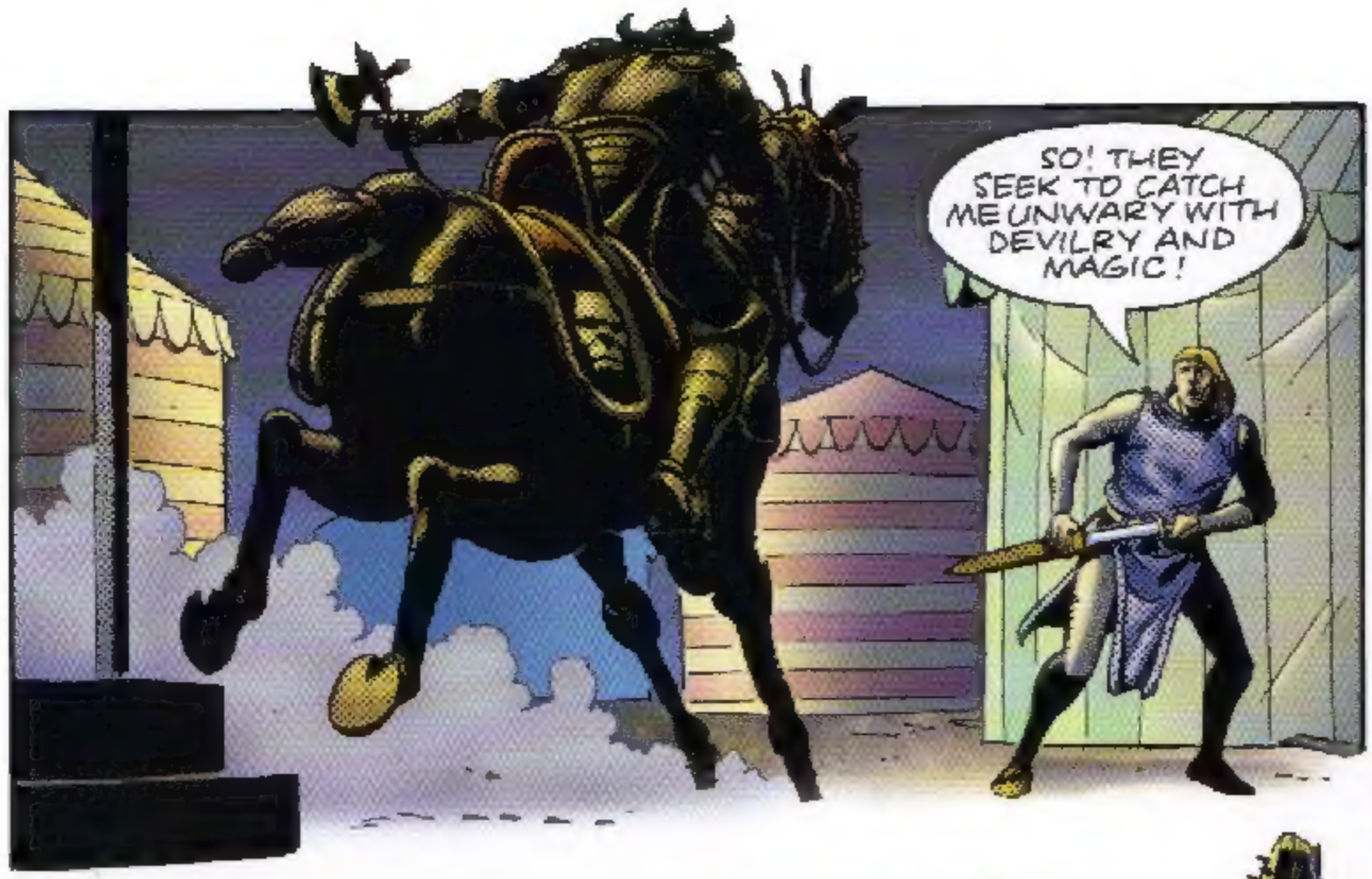

TELL ME, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VIBRATORY ILLUSION AND REALITY... IF THEY ARE BOTH CREATED AT THE SAME SOURCE?
NONE WHATSOEVER! SO I SUGGEST YOU MOVE YOUR HEAD TO ONE SIDE...

FWAM!
BLAAM!
TWO SHOTS WERE FIRED... TWO SHOTS FOUND THEIR TARGET...


...WITH DEVASTATING RESULTS!
WHOOMPF!
13
THE DOCTOR'S CARRIAGE MADE A RAPID EXIT, LIKE THE LEGENDARY BAT FROM HELL!

WHUUMP!
NO MORE TRACK! ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO NOW!
JUMP!
CRAASH!

MEANWHILE, IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE FAIRGROUND, THE DOCTOR'S MEDIEVAL COMPANION, SIR JUSTIN, WANDERED LOST AND CONFUSED...
YE GODS! THIS IS LIKE NO FAIR I'VE EVER KNOWN!
'TIS NOTHING BUT MECHANICAL CONTRIVANCE AND BLARING DIN!
NOT TO MENTION HIDDEN DANGER...


SO! THEY SEEK TO CATCH ME UNWARY WITH DEVILRY AND MAGIC!

CLANG!
I HAVE FACED SUCH FOES BEFORE...EVEN THE NARROW PATH I WALK IS FRAUGHT WITH DEMONS...

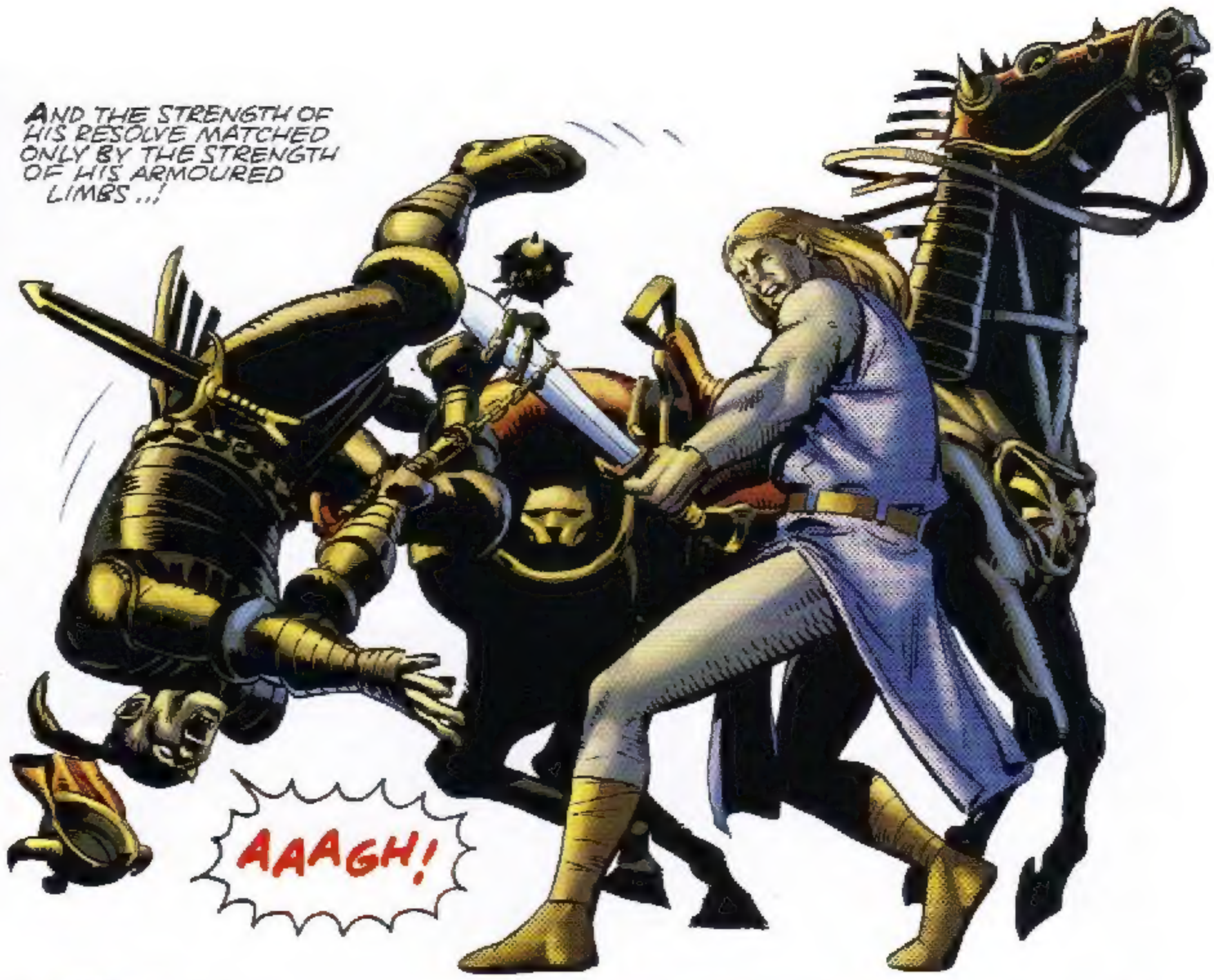
BLAANG!
AIEEGH!

BUT IN THIS REALM, DANGER MULTIPLIES WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT!

THUD!
OOOF!

BASE COWARD! TURN AND FACE ME LIKE A TRUE-BORN KNIGHT AND WE'LL SEE WHO BESTS WHO!

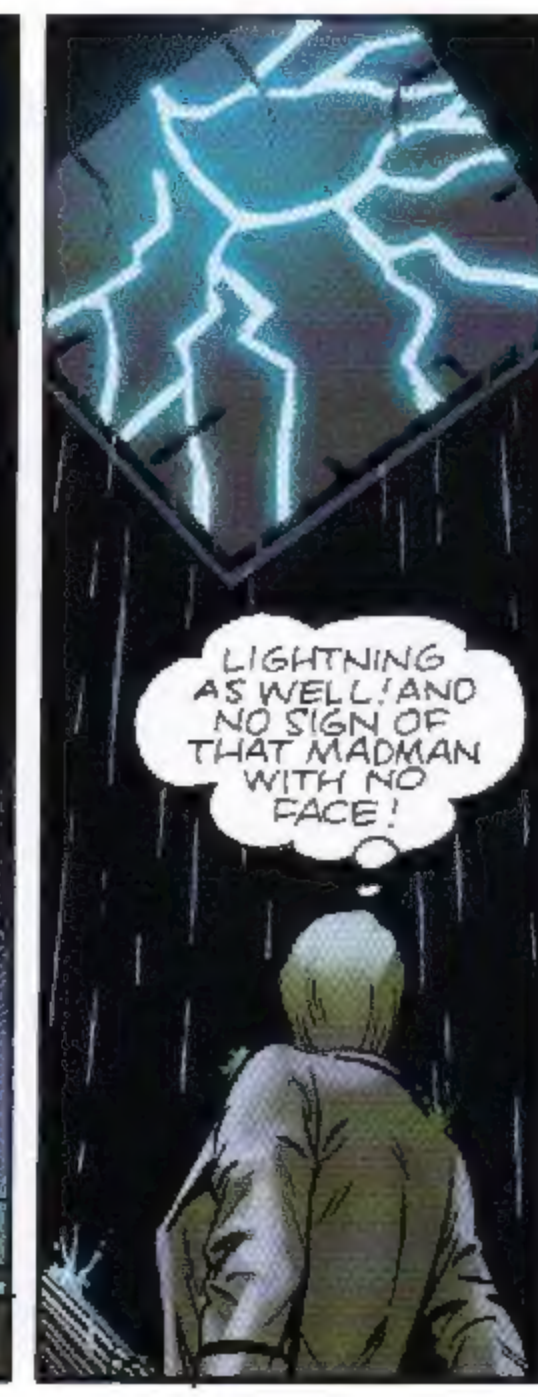
THE KNIGHT'S DEFENCES AGAINST MEDIEVAL WEAPONRY WERE WELL-TRIED...

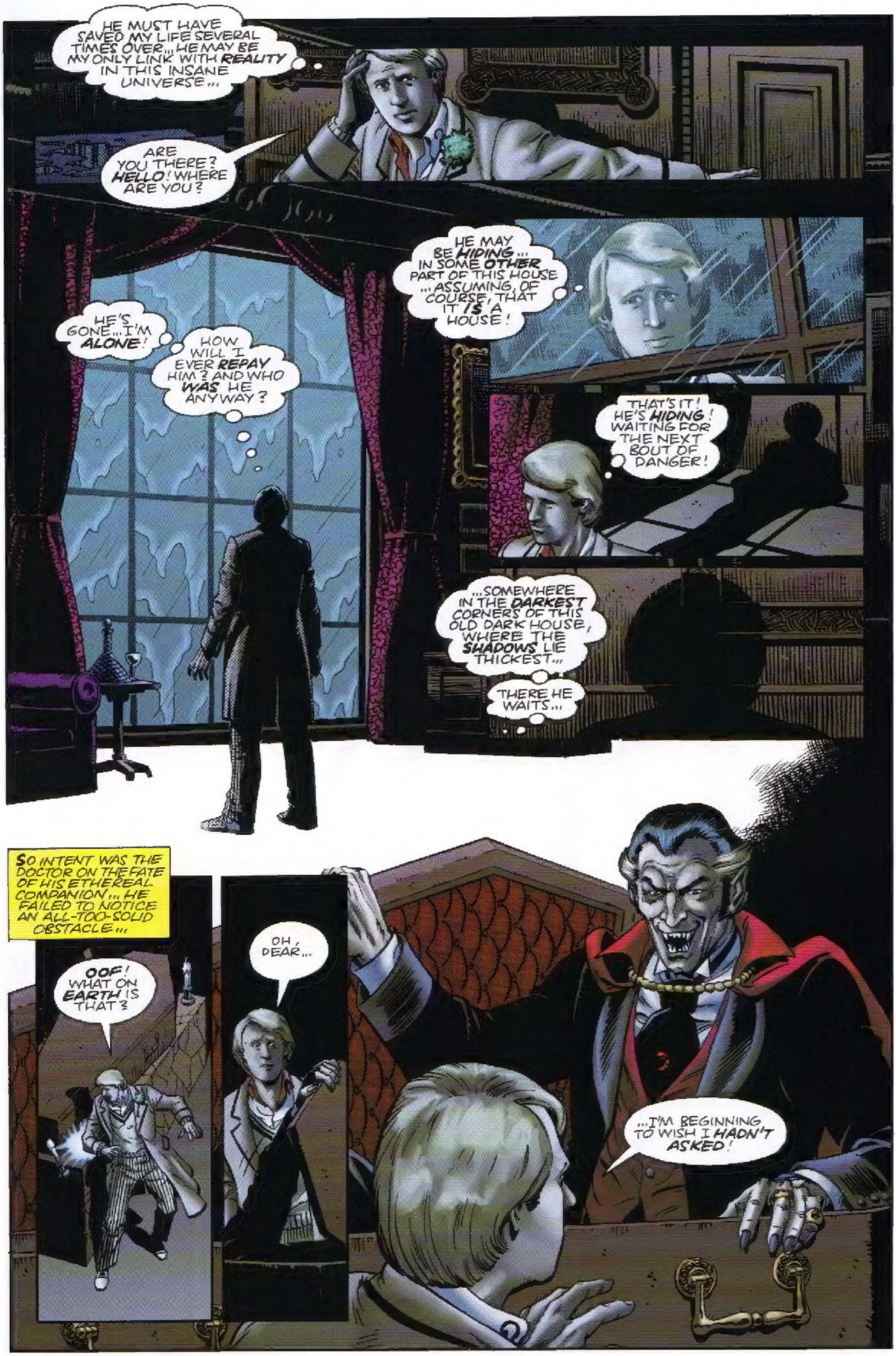

AND THE STRENGTH OF HIS RESOLVE MATCHED ONLY BY THE STRENGTH OF HIS ARMOURED LIMBS...!
AAAGH!

THERE IS NO PROFIT IN FACING THIS RABBLE ALONE...
I MUST BE AWAY... AND FIND THE DOCTOR'S TIME-ENGINE ONCE MORE!

AT LEAST I AM AFFORDED SOME PROTECTION HERE UNTIL THE DOCTOR RETURNS FROM HIS ADVENTURE!
Hall of Mirror.

AND WHAT OF THE DOCTOR? LAST SEEN ACCELERATING AT A GREAT RATE IN A DOWNWARD DIRECTION... ARE HIS FORTUNES LOOKING UP?
OOOH... MY HEAD... I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN DROPPED FROM A GREAT HEIGHT... AND I'M BEING RAINED ON!


LIGHTNING AS WELL! AND NO SIGN OF THAT MADMAN WITH NO FACE!


HE MUST HAVE SAVED MY LIFE SEVERAL TIMES OVER... HE MAY BE MY ONLY LINK WITH REALITY IN THIS INSANE UNIVERSE...
ARE YOU THERE? HELLO! WHERE ARE YOU?
HE'S GONE... I'M ALONE!
HOW WILL I EVER REPAY HIM? AND WHO WAS HE ANYWAY?
HE MAY BE HIDING... IN SOME OTHER PART OF THIS HOUSE ...ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT IT IS A HOUSE!
THAT'S IT! HE'S HIDING! WAITING FOR THE NEXT BOUT OF DANGER!
...SOMEWHERE IN THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THIS OLD DARK HOUSE, WHERE THE SHADOWS LIE THICKEST...
THERE HE WAITS...
SO INTENT WAS THE DOCTOR ON THE FATE OF HIS ETHEREAL COMPANION... HE FAILED TO NOTICE AN ALL-TOO-SOLID OBSTACLE...
OOF! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
OH, DEAR...
...I'M BEGINNING TO WISH I HADN'T ASKED!

SSSSSSS!
NOW JUST HOLD ON ONE SECOND...CAN'T WE TALK THIS OVER? APPLY A LITTLE REASON?
FOR INSTANCE, ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU REPRESENT A STRICTLY MYTHICAL FIGURE DRAWN LARGELY FROM A WORK OF VICTORIAN FICTION?
AS YOU CAN SEE FROM YOUR LACK OF REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR BEHIND ME, MY FRIEND... YOU DON'T EXIST!
BUT IN THE STRANGE UNIVERSE THE DOCTOR NOW INHABITS, ILLUSION LURKS WITHIN ILLUSION ...FOR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR...
DOCTOR! IT IS I! JUSTIN! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
JUSTIN! I CAN HEAR YOU! IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN BREAK THROUGH?
STAND BACK, DOCTOR! I WILL TRY!
CRA CH!
ILLUSION WITHIN ILLUSION ...LIKE THE FALSENESS IN MEN'S HEARTS! BUT I WILL NOT BE MISLED!

KRAASH!
KERAASH!
SMAASH!
YOU DID IT, JUSTIN ...YOU DID IT!
QUICKLY, DOCTOR...YOUR TIME-ENGINE AWAITS WITHIN!
AS FOR YOU, HELLSPAWN... VENTURE NO FURTHER, OR FALL BEFORE THE SWORD OF GOD!
SOMETHING HAS JUST OCCURRED TO ME, JUSTIN! HOW MANY MIRRORS DID YOU BREAK?
FOUR, I THINK... WHY, MY FRIEND? IS IT IMPORTANT?
IT JUST MEANS WE'RE IN FOR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF BAD LUCK ...THAT'S ALL!
SURELY IT CAN BE NO WORSE THAN OUR EXPERIENCES OF LATE?
DON'T BET ON IT, JUSTIN... DON'T BET ON IT!
WHO?
WHOOPP

WildBlueZero

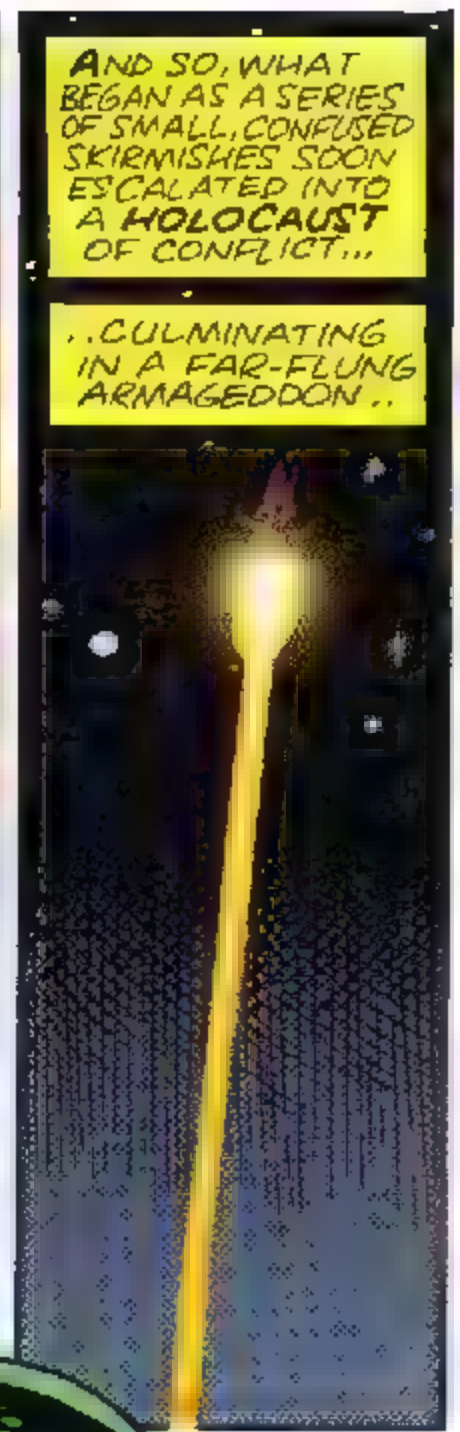
THE TIDES OF TIME

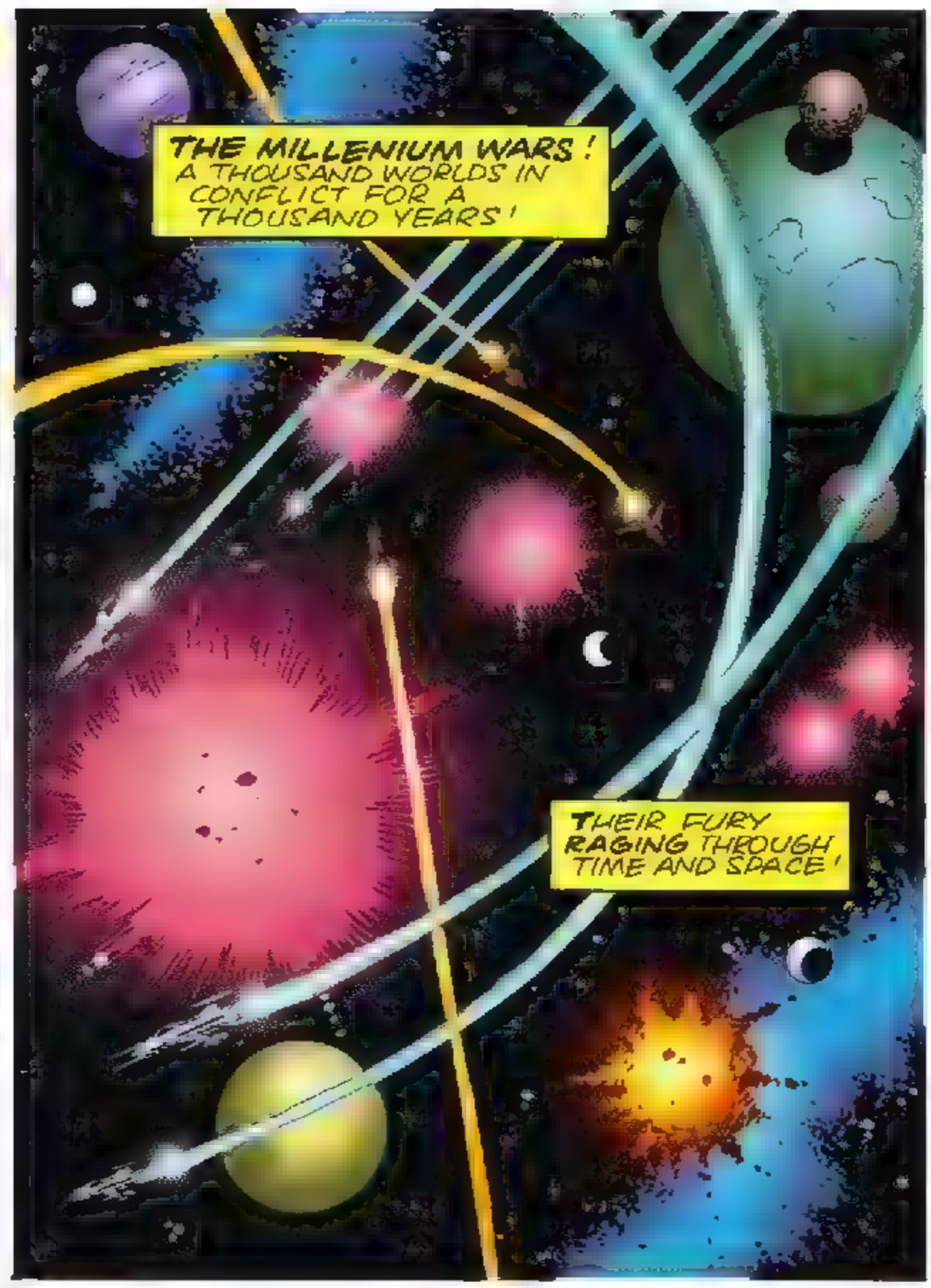
PART FIVE

Script: Steve Parkhouse Art: Dave Gibbons Editor: Alan McKenzie

CENTURY AGAINST CENTURY... THE HISTORY OF A PLANET TORN ASUNDER!
FWOOOOOM!!
FWAAAAM!
EACH AGE BATTLED FOR SUPREMACY IN A VAST, CHAOTIC AND INSANE WAR... THE ULTIMATE FUTILITY, A WAR THAT NONE COULD WIN!
WHOOM! FWAP!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE! JUST HIT 'EM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT AND HEAD FOR HOME! OVER AND OUT!
JUST ONE THING YOU FORGOT TO TELL ME, FLIGHT! WHERE THE HELL IS HOME?
HA HA HA!

AAAGH!


AND SO, WHAT BEGAN AS A SERIES OF SMALL, CONFUSED SKIRMISHES SOON ESCALATED INTO A HOLOCAUST OF CONFLICT...
..CULMINATING IN A FAR-FLUNG ARMAGEDDON..


THE MILLENIUM WARS! A THOUSAND WORLDS IN CONFLICT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!
THEIR FURY RAGING THROUGH TIME AND SPACE!

SUCH THEN IS THE FATE OF PLANET EARTH... AND A THOUSAND OTHER WORLDS BESIDES...
...IN THIS, THE REIGN OF MELANICUS!

BUT MELANICUS HAS CONFINED HIMSELF TO A LINEAR PATH...
..A CUL-DE-SAC IN TIME!
HIS LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENT SYNTHESISER HAS RESTRICTED HIS ACTIONS TO A SINGLE DIMENSION...
IF HE SHOULD DISCOVER THE KEY TO A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL RANGE, THEN NOWHERE IS SAFE ...NOT EVEN GALLIFREY!
LET US PRAY THEN, RASSILON...THAT YOUR GOOD DOCTOR FINDS THE SYNTHESISER BEFORE THE ENTIRE COSMOS IS THREATENED!

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS, JUSTIN...

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS!

WHAT'S THAT, DOCTOR?

TWENTY EIGHT YEARS SINCE WE LEFT GALLIFREY... AND JUST ABOUT TO ENTER THE TWENTY NINTH!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT SEEMS BUT A FEW HOURS!

SUCH IS THE NATURE OF TIME!

WE'VE BEEN HANGING STATIONARY IN ANOTHER DIMENSION FOR THE LAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS...

SHELTERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE MAELSTROM!

BUT SINCE WE LEFT GALLIFREY, TWENTY NINE EARTH YEARS HAVE ELAPSED ... RECORDED HERE ON THE CHRONOMETER OF ABSOLUTE TIME...

THAT'S ANOTHER OF RASSILON'S LITTLE INNOVATIONS... MADE POSSIBLE BY HIS GENERAL SPACE-TIME THEORY...

HOWEVER ...IF WE ARE TO FIND THE DEMON MELANICUS, WE HAVE TO ENTER THE TURBULENCE OF THE MAELSTROM YET AGAIN...

BUT THE PROBLEM IS... AT WHAT POINT?

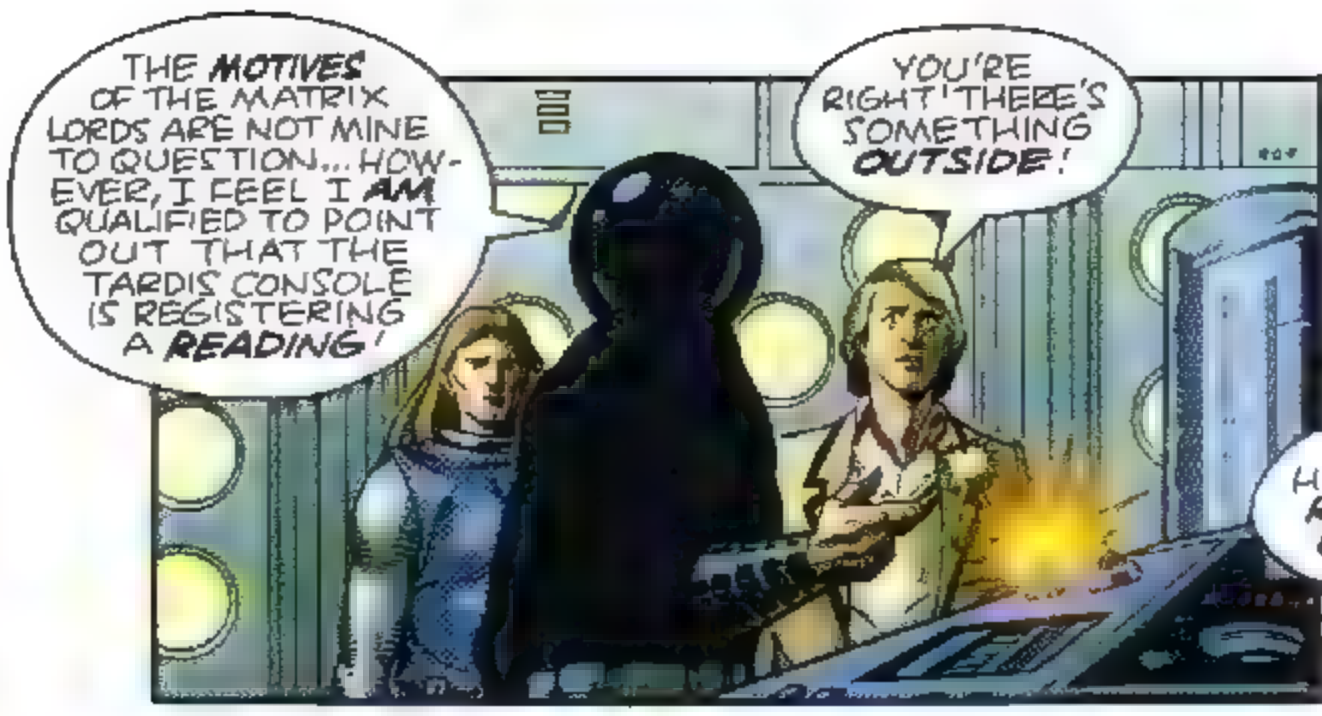
WE MUST DETERMINE THE EXACT POINT OF ENTRY THAT IS CLOSEST TO THE SYNTHESISER...

BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE IT IS AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT...

THAT SHOULD BE COMPARATIVELY SIMPLE, DOCTOR... CONSIDERING THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE SYNTHESISER ITSELF... AND THE FACT THAT IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY MOVE...

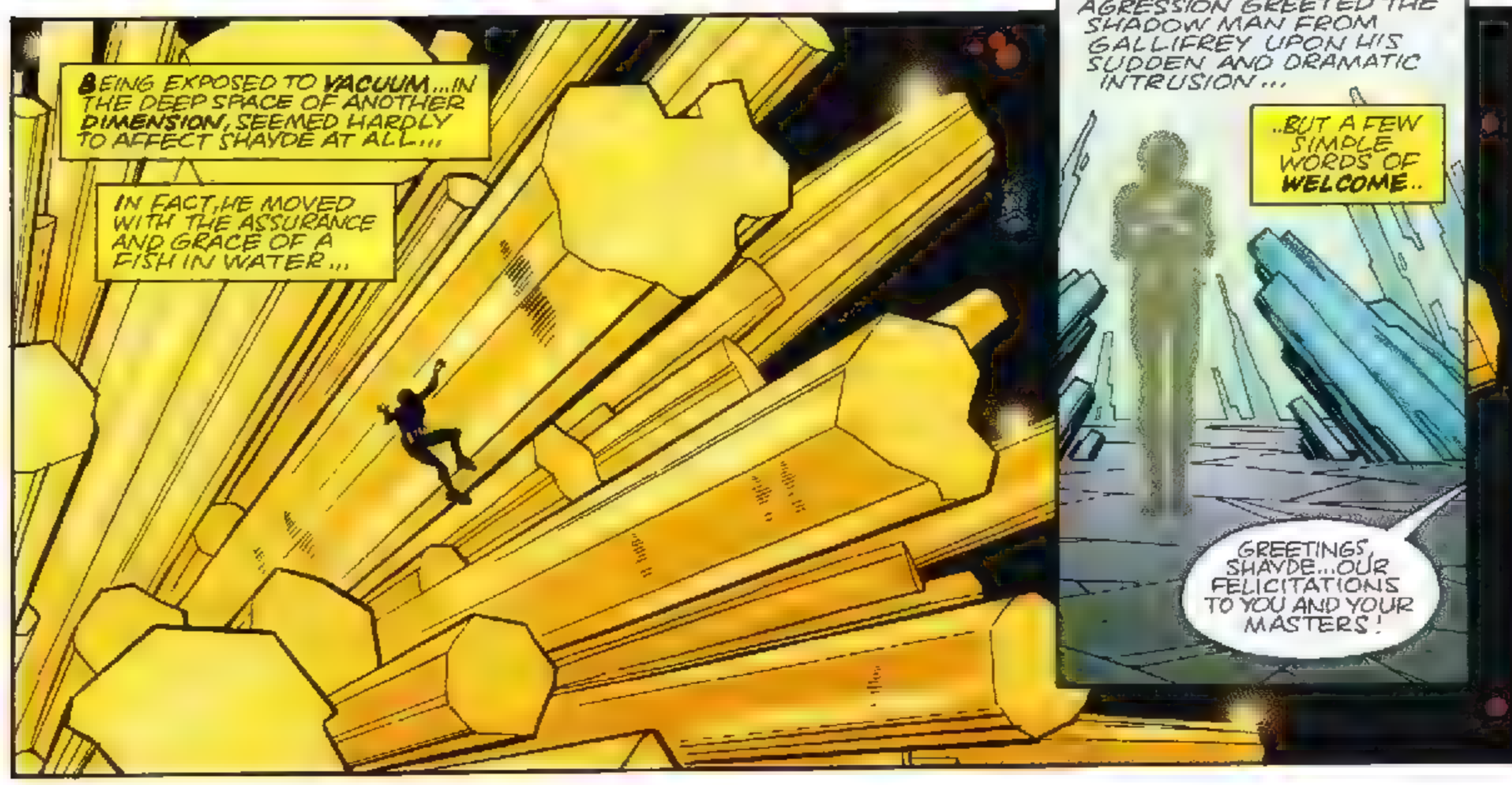
BUT EVERYTHING ELSE MOVES IN RELATION TO IT!

WHO SAID THAT? WAS THAT YOU, JUSTIN?
NOT I! HOW WOULD I KNOW OF SUCH THINGS? ARE WE BESET BY DEMONS AGAIN?
IT WAS I WHO SPOKE... LOOK DOWN AT YOUR FEET, DOCTOR!
GOOD HEAVENS! THE SHADOW MAN! WHERE DID YOU GET TO?
I'VE BEEN HERE ALL THE TIME...
I AM SHAYDE.. I HAVE BEEN WITH YOU SINCE YOU LEFT GALLIFREY...
.. MY PURPOSE IS YOUR PURPOSE MY MASTERS HAVE INSTRUCTED ME TO ASSIST YOU!
MY MASTERS, THE MATRIX LORDS, ARE ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE EVENT SYNTHESISER...
A DIFFICULT TASK, EVEN FOR THEM THEY HAVE SOUGHT HELP FROM MANY QUARTERS...
. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM IN CONSTANT MENTAL CONTACT WITH THE MATRIX ..
I AM ALSO AS FAMILIAR WITH THE FUNCTION OF THE TARDIS AS YOU ARE YOURSELF...
THAT'S REASSURING...
I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER WHY I'M NEEDED HERE AT ALL!
I CAN ONLY SURMISE, DOCTOR, THAT I AM EXPENDABLE... WHEREAS YOU ARE NOT!
THAT'S EVEN MORE REASSURING ...NOTHING PERSONAL, OF COURSE!


THE MOTIVES OF THE MATRIX LORDS ARE NOT MINE TO QUESTION... HOWEVER, I FEEL I AM QUALIFIED TO POINT OUT THAT THE TARDIS CONSOLE IS REGISTERING A READING!
YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S SOMETHING OUTSIDE!

HMM... I HAVE A SCANNER READING... IT'S EXTRAORDINARY!
NO MOVING PARTS... NO MAGNETIC FIELD... POWER SOURCE UNKNOWN! THE OBJECT APPEARS TO BE COMPOSED OF AN EXTREMELY REFINED SUBSTANCE... HARDLY MATTER AT ALL!

... IT'S SOMETHING LIKE CRYSTALLISED ENERGY! WHOEVER SENT THIS OBJECT, THIS CRAFT.. THEY'RE A VERY HIGHLY EVOLVED SPECIES!
I WONDER IF WE CAN ASSUME THEIR INTENTIONS ARE.. OH! HE'S GONE!

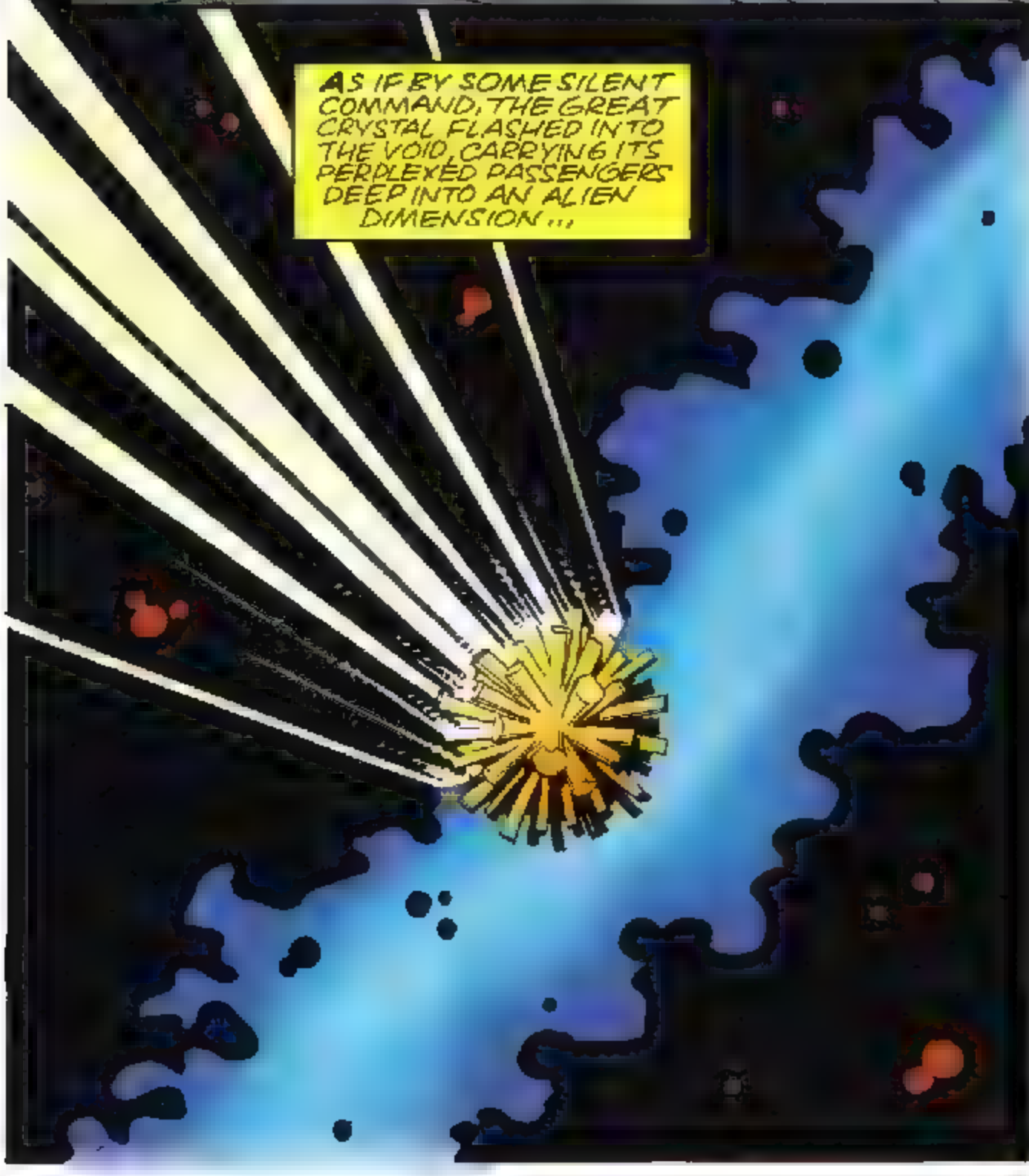

BEING EXPOSED TO VACUUM... IN THE DEEP SPACE OF ANOTHER DIMENSION, SEEMED HARDLY TO AFFECT SHAYDE AT ALL...
IN FACT, HE MOVED WITH THE ASSURANCE AND GRACE OF A FISH IN WATER...
NO ALARMS, NO RUNNING GUARDS... NO PANIC OR AGRESSION GREETED THE SHADOW MAN FROM GALLIFREY UPON HIS SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC INTRUSION...
..BUT A FEW SIMPLE WORDS OF WELCOME..
GREETINGS, SHAYDE... OUR FELICITATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR MASTERS!

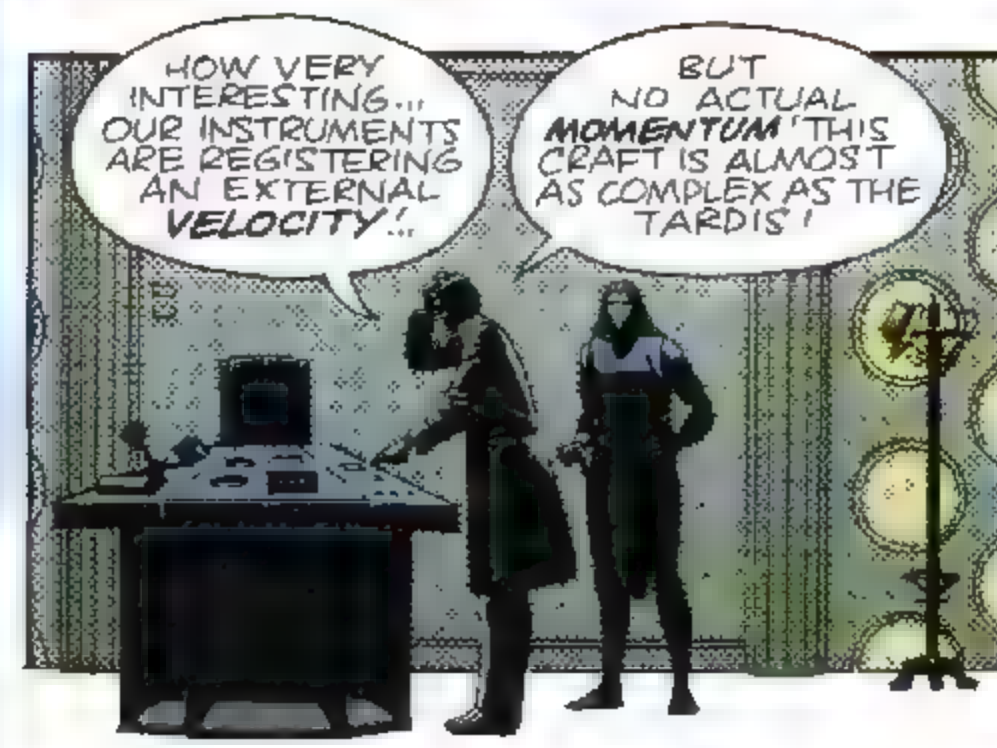
GREETINGS, MY LORDS OF ALTHRACE...I WAS INFORMED THAT WE WOULD MEET BEFORE LONG!

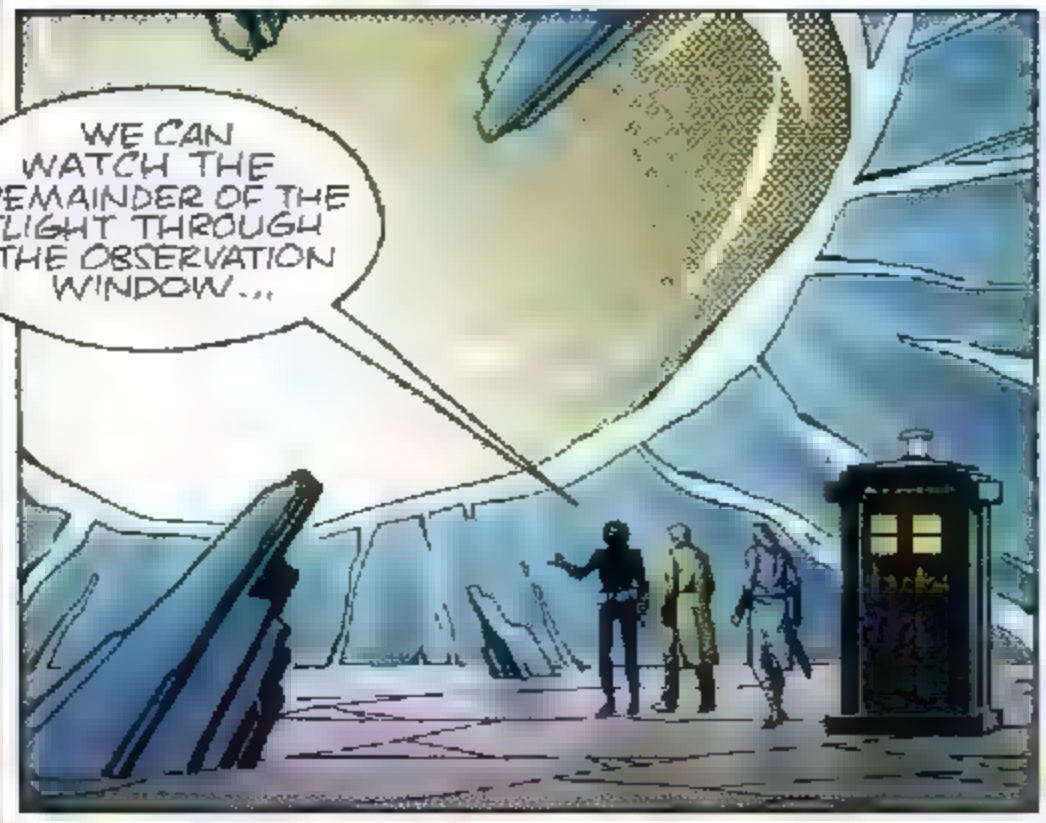
I HAD NO IDEA THAT IT WOULD BE THIS SOON!

MERE MINUTES HAD ELAPSED SINCE SHAYDE'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE...AND THEN...

THE CRYSTAL CRAFT IS FROM ALTHRACE, DOCTOR...WE ARE AMONG FRIENDS! YOU ARE WELCOME ABOARD, BUT PLEASE STAY INSIDE THE TARDIS AS THERE IS NO ATMOSPHERE IN THE SHIP!

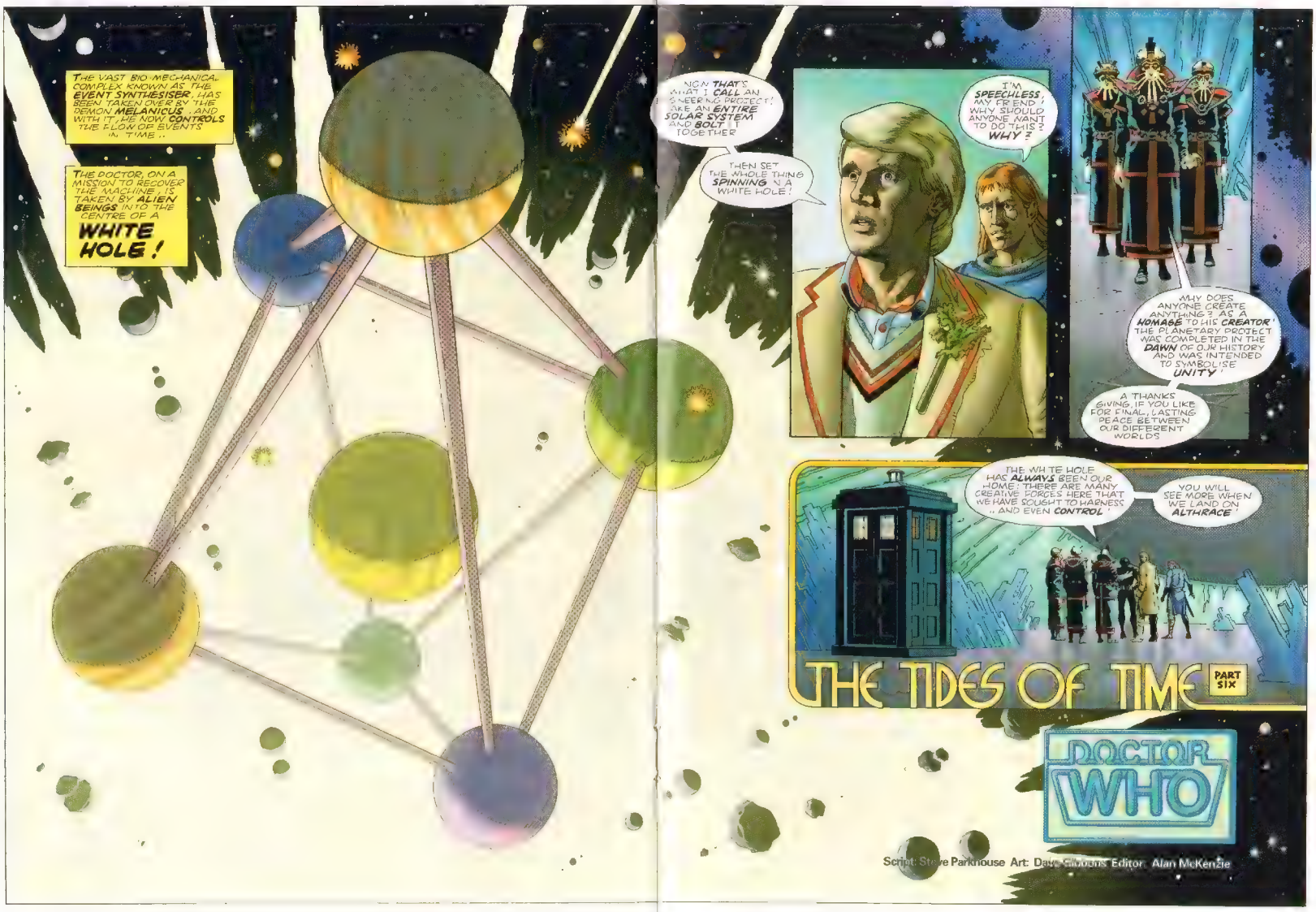






A SPLENDID SIGHT, JUSTIN... ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES OF CREATION...

A WHITE HOLE!!


THE VAST BIO MECHANICAL COMPLEX KNOWN AS THE EVENT SYNTHESISER, HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE DEMON MELANICUS, AND WITH IT, HE NOW CONTROLS THE FLOW OF EVENTS IN TIME..
THE DOCTOR, ON A MISSION TO RECOVER THE MACHINE, IS TAKEN BY ALIEN BEINGS INTO THE CENTRE OF A WHITE HOLE!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL AN SNEERING PROJECT! TAKE AN ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM AND BOLT IT TOGETHER
THEN SET THE WHOLE THING SPINNING IN A WHITE HOLE!
I'M SPEECHLESS, MY FRIEND! WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO DO THIS? WHY?
WHY DOES ANYONE CREATE ANYTHING? AS A HOMAGE TO HIS CREATOR! THE PLANETARY PROJECT WAS COMPLETED IN THE DAWN OF OUR HISTORY AND WAS INTENDED TO SYMBOLISE UNITY!
A THANKSGIVING, IF YOU LIKE FOR FINAL, LASTING PEACE BETWEEN OUR DIFFERENT WORLDS
THE WHITE HOLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR HOME! THERE ARE MANY CREATIVE FORCES HERE THAT WE HAVE SOUGHT TO HARNESS, AND EVEN CONTROL!
YOU WILL SEE MORE WHEN WE LAND ON ALTHRACE!
THE TIDES OF TIME
PART SIX
DOCTOR WHO
Script: Steve Parkhouse Art: Dave Gibbons Editor: Alan McKenzie

WE NO LONGER CONCERN OURSELVES WITH **BUILDING** MACHINES... WE PREFER TO **GROW** THEM!

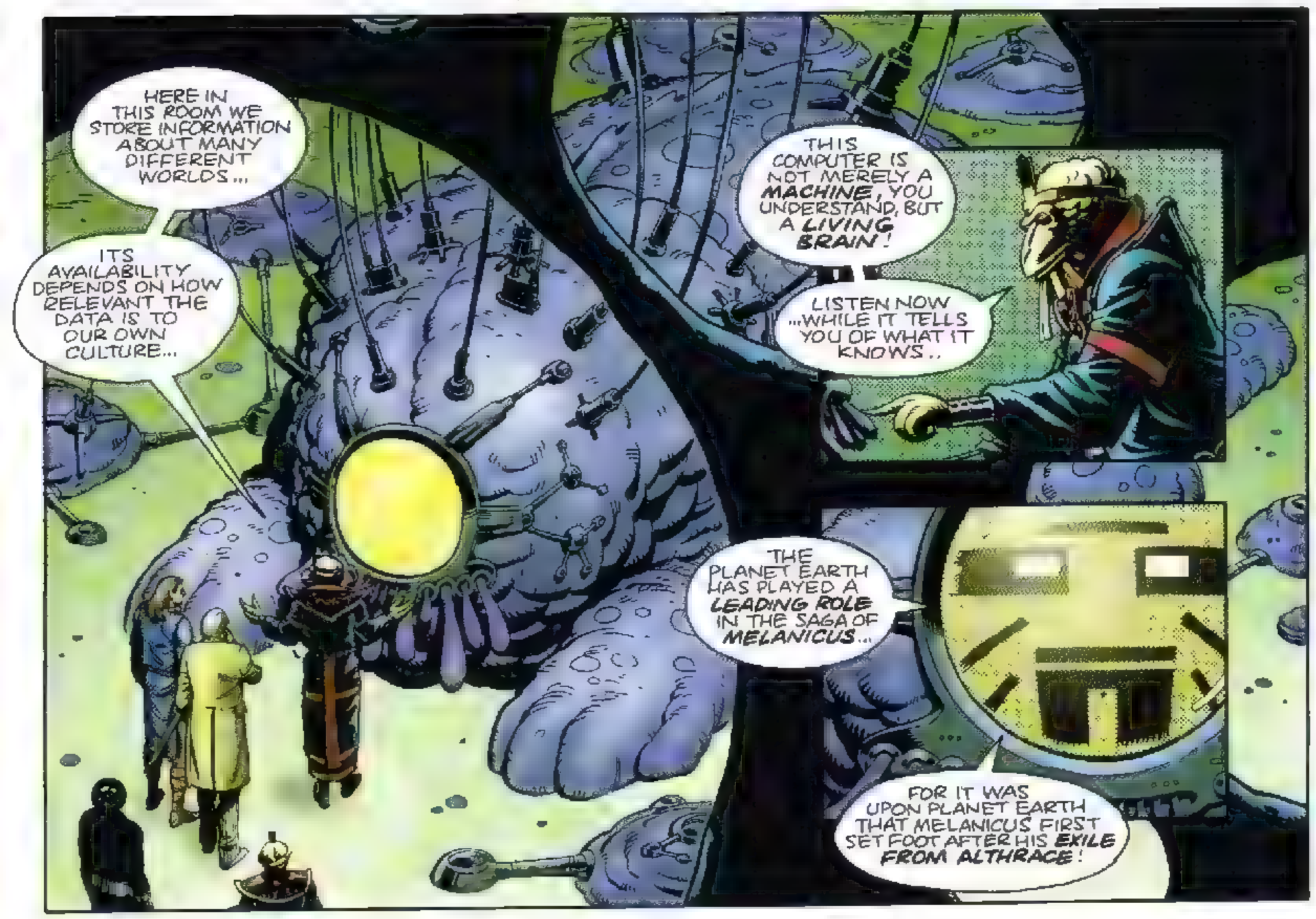
OUR TECHNOLOGY IS **BIO-MECHANICAL**... LARGELY ORGANIC... PART CONSTRUCT. THIS CRAFT, FOR INSTANCE, IS A **LIVING CREATURE**, WHICH RESPONDS TO OUR **THOUGHTS**!

OUR MAIN CONCERN IS NOT WITH **FUNCTION**.. BUT **RELATIONSHIPS**! I BELIEVE WE RELATE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT IN A UNIQUE WAY!

YOU'RE VERY QUIET, JUSTIN...HAS ALL THIS FINALLY PROVED TOO MUCH FOR YOU?
NOW DON'T DENY THAT YOU'RE AS BOGGLED BY ALL THIS AS I AM!

INDEED, DOCTOR...THE WONDERS I'VE SEEN SURPASS MY UNDER-STANDING...
THIS MUST BE PARADISE...OR SOMETHING CLOSE TO IT AND YET WE ARE NOT DEAD ...WE ARE STILL BREATHING ...STILL ALIVE!
I WAS THINKING OF MY HOME-LAND...
NEVER HAS IT SEEMED SO FAR AWAY!

MY LORDS... DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF THE PLANET EARTH...AND MORE ESPECIALLY, THE COUNTRY OF ENGLAND?
YOU MAY BE SURPRISED AT WHAT WE KNOW...


HERE IN THIS ROOM WE STORE INFORMATION ABOUT MANY DIFFERENT WORLDS...
ITS AVAILABILITY DEPENDS ON HOW RELEVANT THE DATA IS TO OUR OWN CULTURE...
THIS COMPUTER IS NOT MERELY A MACHINE, YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT A LIVING BRAIN!
LISTEN NOW ...WHILE IT TELLS YOU OF WHAT IT KNOWS..
THE PLANET EARTH HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE SAGA OF MELANICUS...
FOR IT WAS UPON PLANET EARTH THAT MELANICUS FIRST SET FOOT AFTER HIS EXILE FROM ALTHRACE!

WHAT? MELANICUS WAS A NATIVE OF ALTHRACE?
REMEMBER, DOCTOR... ALTHRACE IS NOT A SINGLE PLANET, BUT A SYSTEM!
A SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS MANY RACES...AND MANY DIFFERENT SPECIES
BUT LET THE COMPUTER CONTINUE ...OPEN YOUR MINDS TO THE IMAGES IT SUMMONS FORTH...
"MELANICUS WAS OF THE RACE OF KALICHURA... AND A HIGHLY EVOLVED BEING ...BUT HIS TORTURED SOUL DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR WAR AND DESTRUCTION..."
"HE TRIED TO CONQUER ALTHRACE! OUR MYTHOLOGY IS FULL OF TALES OF BATTLES BETWEEN GODS AND DEMONS..."
"MELANICUS WAS DEFEATED... AND TOOK FLIGHT INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION...
...THERE, HE APPEARED IN A DREAM TO A KING FROM THE PLANET EARTH!"
"A THIRD CENTURY DESPOT CALLED CATAVOLCUS! ONE WHO DABBLED IN THE BLACK ARTS!"
CATAVOLCUS! I KNEW HE'D HAVE TO BE MIXED UP IN ALL THIS!

"THE TYRANT KING PERFORMED A CEREMONY WHICH GAVE MELANICUS ENTRY TO A NEW DIMENSION...
...IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT HE HAD CONJURED FORTH A GOD!"
"IN RETURN, MELANICUS BESTOWED GREAT POWER UPON HIM...
...HE DIVULGED TO CATAVOLCUS THE SECRETS OF THE ATOM...AND THE ABILITY TO TRAVERSE TIME!"
"TOGETHER, THE TWO FIENDS COULD HAVE CONQUERED THE EARTH...
...BUT FOR THE INTERVENTION OF THE GREAT WIZARD, MERLIN!"
"MERLIN REVERSED THE PROCESS, BANISHING MELANICUS TO HIS WORLD OF DARKNESS...
AND CATAVOLCUS STILL ROAMS TIME AND SPACE... PILLAGING PLANETS FOR THEIR POWER!"

I CAN ADD A **CLOSING CHAPTER** TO YOUR FILE ON CATAVOLCUS ...HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED...

AT SOME POINT IN EARTH'S FUTURE HE IS **KILLED** IN A **NUCLEAR EXPLOSION**!

AND THE GUIDING HAND WAS **MERLIN'S**! ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T REALISE IT AT THE TIME, HE DID PLANET EARTH A **GREAT SERVICE**...

AND PROBABLY SAVED **OTHER** WORLDS, AS WELL!

BUT WHAT OF EARTH NOW? WHAT HAS **HAPPENED** TO IT?

I FEAR IT IS IN A STATE OF **TURMOIL**! MELANICUS HAS TURNED HIS FULL ATTENTION UPON IT!

A STATE WHICH WE HOPE TO **REMEDY** ...WITH THE HELP OF YOU ALL...

COME THIS WAY...

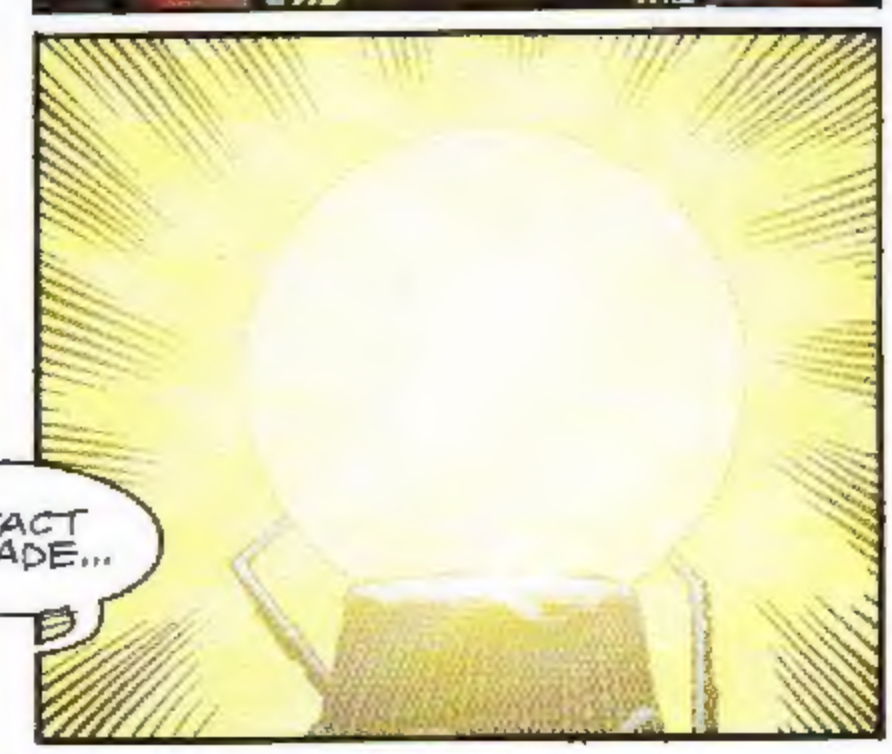
OUR RACE **DESIGNED** AND **BUILT** THE EVENT SYNTHESISER ...TO **SIMULATE** THE EFFECTS OF THE WHITE HOLE. NOW WE FEEL **RESPONSIBLE** FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

WE INTEND TO **REVERSE** THE FLOW OF TIME... TO OVER-RIDE THE SYNTHESISER AND **PIN-POINT** ITS POSITION!

HOW DO YOU INTEND TO **DO** THIS?

WITH THE POWER OF OUR **THOUGHTS**, DOCTOR! THE COMBINED **WILL** OF EVERY HIGH EVOLUTIONARY KNOWN TO US...

INCLUDING THE MATRIX LORDS OF **GALLIFREY**!



NEXT TO SLAY A DEMON!